Building an igloo

EYFS TOPICS

MATERIALS & BUILDING | SNOW & ICE | SEASONS & WEATHER

EYFS Links

C&L: Extends Vocabulary
PSED: Work as part of group
PD: Handles malleable materials with increasing control
M: Begins to recognise 2D shapes
L: Uses vocabulary influenced by experiences
UW: Looks closely at change
EAD: Manipulates materials to achieve a planned effect

Lesson Objectives

Children will work with their peers to create and build with snow.

Resources

plastic containers (take away boxes or empty ice-cream tubs work well for this); lots of snow!

Key Vocabulary

igloo, bricks, cuboid, circle, alternate, structure, stable.

Risk Assessments Generic Site RA; Building Shelters RA.

Top Tips Ensure children have waterproof gloves and encourage lots of discussion about the structure, shapes and snow.

Learning Outcomes

LA - Children will be able to work together to build an igloo with snow.

MA - Children will be able to work together to build an igloo with snow. They can talk about the shapes in their design.

HA - Children will be able to work together to build an igloo with snow. They can talk about the shapes and patterns in their design.

On a snowy day, what could be better than building an igloo together with your group?!

Preparation

- You will need lots of plastic containers which act as moulds for your ice bricks. This ensures the bricks are uniform and fit together well. Plastic takeaway containers or empty ice-cream tubs work well for this!

Method

- Firstly create a circle of bricks for the first layer- remember to make it large enough to fit people in and leave a gap where you want your door.
- Lay the next layer slightly in from the edge to form a slightly smaller circle on top. Remember to lay each brick over a join of the bricks below.
- Continue this pattern to build it higher and higher.
- You can rub the brick joins gently and keep patting the bricks together to make it more stable.
- If you are finding the top tricky - you could leave it as an open-top-igloo.
- If you want to make the top, ensure an adult is helping and tests it carefully before you go inside: no-one wants to get ice bricks on their head or get trapped inside!
- Discuss who lives in igloos & why these types of houses are suited to which environments? Look at the shapes & patterns formed when building.

Differentiation: Mixed ability teams.

Extension: Can you build additional features for your igloo such as a snow-chair or an entrance tunnel? Talk about seasons and how the weather changes in the Winter. Talk about which environments this kind of building would be suitable for.

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